AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

1. (Currently amended) A method for securely switching between operating modes of an industrial controller for machine tools or production machines, comprising the steps of:

identifying an operator with a two-step key authentication switch before switching between the operating modes;

transmitting to an operator's console of the controller a redundant binary enable signal in the event of a successful identification of the operator; and

if the operator's console receives the enable signal and determines that the enable signal is error-free, enabling the operator to switch between the operating modes by using at least one key of the operator's console, with the least one key being implemented in safe technology.

2. (Currently amended) A device for securely switching between operating modes of an industrial controller for machine tools or production machines, comprising:

identification means with a two-step key authentication switch and at least one key located on the operator's console and implemented in safe technology, said at least one key operating the key authentication switch so

as to identify ~~for identifying~~ an operator before switching between the operating modes; and

an operator's console of the controller receiving from the identification means a redundant binary enable signal if the operator is successfully identified, [[; and]]

~~at least one key located on the operator's console and implemented in safe technology,~~ wherein the at least one key enables the operator to switch between the operating modes if the operator's console receives from the identification means the enable signal and determines that the enable signal is error-free.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the identification means are externally connected to the operator's console.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The device of claim [[4]] 2, wherein the key authentication switch is configured so that the key operating the key authentication switch, when released, automatically returns to [[its]] an initial position and interrupts the enable signal.

7. (Currently amended) The device of claim [[5]] 2, further comprising second identification means connected in parallel with the identification means, wherein the second identification means is selected form the group consisting of an identification card, a transponder and a biometric device.

8. (Original) The device of claim 7, wherein the biometric device comprises a fingerprint scanner or a retina scanner.

9. (New) The device of claim 2, wherein the identification means are internal to the operator's console.

10. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one key operating the two-step key authentication switch, when released, automatically returns to an initial position and interrupts the enable signal.

11. (New) A device for securely switching between operating modes of an industrial controller for machine tools or production machines, comprising:

identification means selected form the group consisting of an identification card, a transponder and a biometric device, for identifying an operator before switching between the operating modes;

an operator's console of the controller receiving from the identification means a redundant binary enable signal if the operator is successfully identified, and

at least one key located on the operator's console and implemented in safe technology, wherein the at least one key enables the operator to switch between the operating modes if the operator's console receives from the identification means the enable signal and determines that the enable signal is error-free.

12. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the biometric device comprises a fingerprint scanner or a retina scanner.